

12th November 2021

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

This week we have learned about remembrance. We held our 2 minutes silence at 11:00 on Thursday and thought about all of the people who have made sacrifices for our country.



Next Friday is Children in Need day. We will be holding a non-uniform day where students can wear their own clothes in return for contributing £1 to the cause.

Students have been working hard in their curriculum choice sessions and the drama group are working on a Christmas play. We will be inviting parents into school on the afternoon of **Thursday 16th December** to see the play and look at some of the other projects that have been running. More details to follow.



Finally, our students have been earning lots of tickets over the last few weeks for our whole school reward system. Students can earn tickets for doing things that are 'above and beyond', for example: for doing some amazing work, behaving really well, or doing something especially kind or helpful. When the whole school earns 100 tickets, we all get a reward. At the moment we are working towards 'Backwards Day'! We have earned 73 tickets and just need a few more to get there.

Have a great weekend,

Sarah



PHOENIX



At the end of last week, we celebrated bonfire night with a campfire. We stayed in the forest area for the majority of the morning taking part in a variety of challenges and activities. We finished by roasting marshmallows on sticks we had sharpened. I was so impressed with how sensible the students were.

PE sessions have been a huge hit this week! Jamie, our sports coach, has set up circuit training sessions where students are aiming to beat previous scores. I've never seen so much dedication to improving their performance - very impressive progress! Jacob has been taking part in boxing sessions and is using this to regulate. This has become one of his favourite things to do in movement sessions.



This week, we had an excellent group session with Ellie, our Speech And Language Therapist focusing on building relationships.

We have also been testing out our new Minecraft Education Programme much to the students delight! This week, we have been inviting others into our worlds and setting ground rules that they must follow.

DRAGONFLY

We've had another great week in Dragonfly. In R.E, we learned about Christmas Traditions and found out which ones had a religious meaning and which didn't. The class really enjoyed rummaging through Hilary's Christmas decorations that she brought in from home and finding out more about them! To continue with the theme of Christmas Traditions we made mini Christmas Cakes and we are looking forward to decorating them next week!

In Design & Technology, we made Marble Runs with bends and had a lot of fun checking to see if they worked well! Here are some of our results:



In Maths, we have been using Base 10 and egg boxes to help us to understand that division means sharing into equal groups. We are hoping that this will help us to become super speedy when remembering our Times Tables!

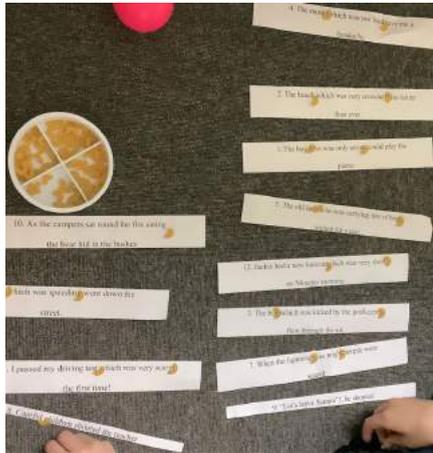


In Art, we made Remembrance Poppies which we put on our tables when we observed the 2 minute silence on Remembrance Day.



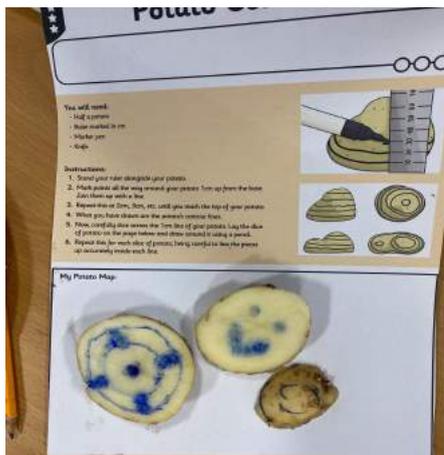
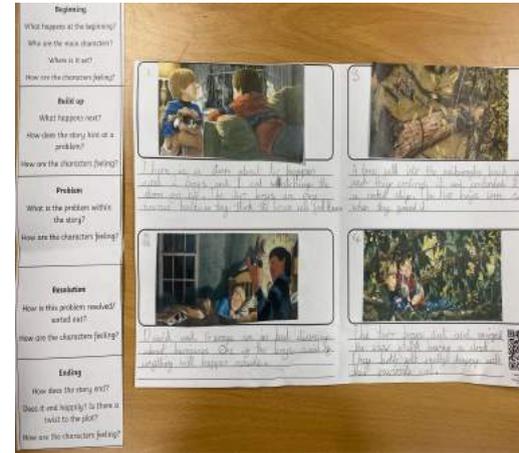
POLAR

We had such a busy week in Polar and worked incredibly hard in our English sessions. We focused on a new book called Hurricane by David Weisner. We looked at the blurb, front cover and read the first page before predicting what would happen next.

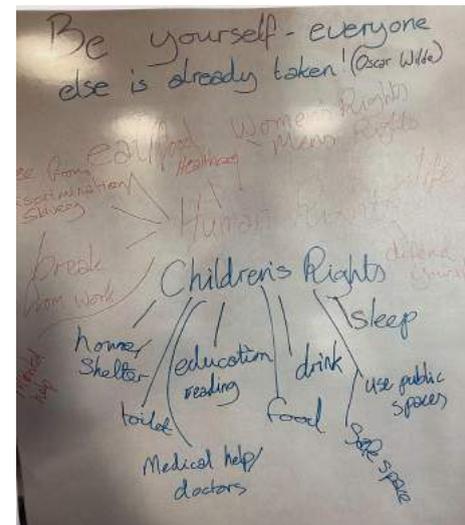


Then we retrieved and summarised the story using story mapping boxes template and pictures to support us with our writing.

We also applied our knowledge of four different commas that can be used in sentences, to help us when we are going to be writing our own descriptive poetry.



In Geography, we have learnt about how to use a map to locate and describe key features of the mountains in the UK. Some of us also drew a 2D contour map using potatoes, as we discussed how maps are 2D and airline pilots/ mountaineers often need to know the height of the terrain.



For PSHE, we discussed what we know and didn't know about human and children's rights, then shared these using a mindmap on the whiteboard. We also looked at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and chose 5 rights that we feel are important to us.



As part of Remembrance Day, we remained silent for two minutes at 11am in our class. We watched a clip and looked at slides, explaining why Remembrance day occurs on the 11th November and why it is important to many people. We also worked very hard at making split pin Remembrance Day poppies and created different poppy crafts.

EUROPA



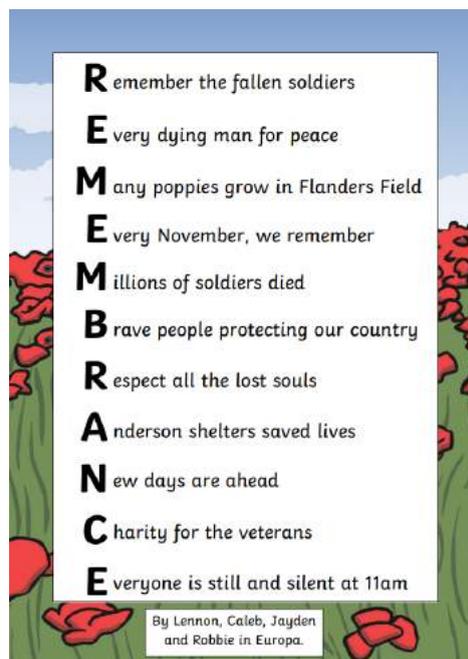
This week we have been working on being good friends to each other, which has involved lots of paired or group work. We are getting really good at recognising who we can ask for help in our class.

In Maths, we have been working on fractions. We started our week by matching atypical representations of familiar fractions to their fraction form. The students really enjoyed the sensory experience of the tuff tray and were brilliant at recognising the different fraction representations.



Lennon and Jayden were very excited to work together to make “The Maths Dream Team”. They have realised they make an excellent team and have enjoyed working together in other lessons too.

On Thursday, all of the students respectfully observed the two minute silence. Jayden was worried he wouldn’t manage it, so he set himself a challenge with the timer to practise before 11am and was very proud of himself when he did the 2 minute silence with everybody in class. Throughout the day, the students worked on Remembrance themed tasks, including making a model of a Spitfire, a poppy wreath and writing a lovely poem together.



ODYSSEY



We've had lots of fun this week in Odyssey class. Monday was baking day and we all made bread. We practised our skills of kneading and shaping the dough and we had to decide when it was time to add more flour. We even made our own butter. We did this by shaking some double cream. The fat molecules all stuck together to make the butter. It was really good with a bit of salt added.



We have continued our topic of Richard III and investigated the mystery of the Princes in the tower. We were surprised to learn that the mystery has never really been solved, but we all had our own suspicions about what might have happened to Richard's nephews.



We're enjoying working on A Christmas Carol and on Thursday we watched a bit of the movie to learn more about the character of Jacob Marley. The students worked really hard to use their powers of inference and we started to think about what his chains might represent.



We had a science morning on Wednesday and thinking about science in the news, we completed a sustainable energy project. We learned how to generate a watt of electricity and made our own wind turbines. The challenge was to pick up a weight from the floor using a winch powered by the turbine. All the models worked brilliantly, but Damon's was the most successful in the end, picking up the most weight.



In Maths, we practised reading line charts to investigate our own electricity consumption.

Everybody is really enjoying our PE lessons and participation is always 100%. Jamie (Sports Coach) really challenged us with some circuit training this week.

Everybody worked very hard to keep going even when it got really difficult. Great determination Odyssey class!



VOYAGER

Last week, Laura took the students to the Forest Area to work with Apollo and Phoenix and they had great fun doing the blindfolded trail, making a fire and eating marshmallows after they toasted them!

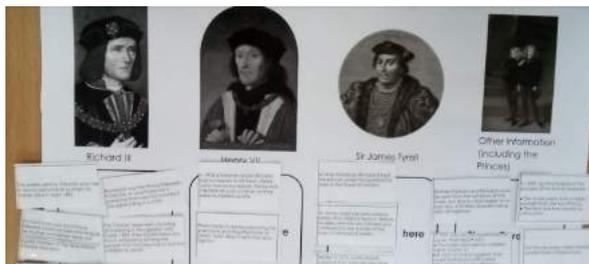


In DT, we have started our topic on Disasters and spent the lesson yesterday discussing the horrific devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused in New Orleans; we then planned and "packed" our own emergency kit bags!



We spent our Wellbeing lesson on Wednesday looking at still images during and after the war and linking our Social Thinking, Zones of Regulation and Interception lessons to write down what the people were thinking and feeling. We decorated poppies to make a

wreath and Henry enjoyed decorating poppies in the girls' colours for the Guinea Pigs.



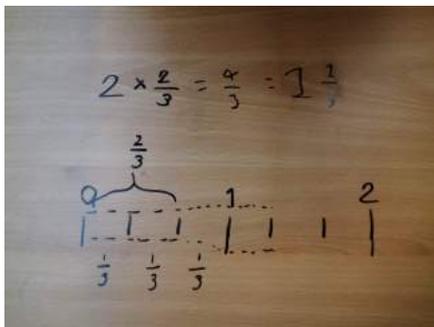
In History, we've been making progress on our Richard III topic and this week we looked at "The Princes in the Tower" and tried to deduce who we thought was responsible for their deaths, given the evidence and information that were provided. It was a great team collaboration from Luke, Jacob and Henry. Lewis gave us some incite that it'll probably point to Richard III because of the timings.

We have focused on some more very important Life Skills this week: Folding laundry and pairing up socks! Great fun by all, and hopefully the boys are now more independent with this task at home - you'll have to let us know!



APOLLO

On Friday last week, Apollo joined the other classes for the bonfire and had a great time roasting marshmallows, whittling sticks and making impressions of leaves.



In Maths, we are now looking at multiplying fractions, this (left) is Sol's work showing how fractions can be multiplied by whole numbers, shown on a number line.

In English, we have been looking at Victorian life for the rich and the poor to investigate the setting in which A Christmas Carol is set. This will help us to better understand the message that Charles Dickens is putting across and allow us to write well structured answers.

In DT, we looked at Hurricane Katrina and how people dealt with the disaster. We then created our "emergency grab bag" by choosing and justifying different objects that we would pack. It promoted some great discussions.

Finally, in Home Care we sorted and folded clothes, a few were confident already but now there is no excuse for any of them not to do it! Many thanks again for those that donated clothing and other items to help with this topic.



OTHER NEWS



Online communication

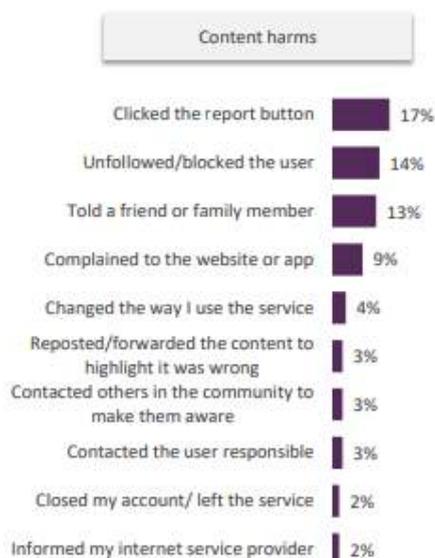
On the 9th June 2021, Ofcom published their annual report about how people interact online. This highlights some of the main points relevant to children and parents.

Key statistics

This table shows how children of different ages use these services and highlights the need for children to understand how online tools should be used properly and safely.

	Aged 5-15	Aged 5-7	Aged 8-11	Aged 12-15
Used social media	55%	30%	44%	87%
Used messaging services	65%	33%	64%	91%
Watched content on video-sharing platforms	97%	95%	96%	99%
Were aware of online reporting functions	-	-	-	69%
Had a negative experience online	-	-	-	55%

Source: Ofcom's Children's and Parents' Media Literacy Tracker 2020/21 – Surveys 1 and 2, 2020/21.



Reporting unexpected content and unexpected contact

These tables show the top 10 reactions to content and contact. It highlights the need for support as not every person has the same reactions when experiencing unexpected content and contact online, which may be down to knowing how to deal with it



For further reading, there is a very good (and statistic heavy) article about communication and how the pandemic has accelerated the use of online services and tools on the Ofcom website [here](#) (2020 overview)

There is also the full Ofcom Online Nation annual report (2021) [here](#)

Reminder



The speed limit when entering and leaving the car park is 5mph.



★ Parent Support Workshop



We have our first Parent Support Group of the year taking place on 25th November and we would love you to join us.

The theme for this session is RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education linked with Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) where we will explain how we support our students to understand a range of topics within the framework including Self awareness and managing feelings.

The session will be on Thursday 25th November from 3:45 - 5pm, held at school in our Main hall, we will also provide refreshments. If you would like to attend please contact the office on 01455 243 689 or email Elyssa our Pastoral Lead on; elyssa.castleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact us for further details. We hope you can join us.



Friday 19th November - Children in Need. Non-uniform day. Bring £1.

Thursday 25th November - Parent Support Workshop (see above)

Thursday 16th December (pm) - Christmas event for families in school. Details TBC

Friday 17th December - Last day of term

Tuesday 4th January - School opens

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/fusion-academy/>

office@thefusionacademy.co.uk

Contact Number: 01455 243689